

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

1-24 (canceled)

25. (previously presented) A bi-directional access point comprising:

an interface section comprising a bridging connection for a bi-directional communication path, and an interface output connection;

an impedance boosting section coupled to the interface output connection, the impedance boosting circuit including a transformer tap output; and

an access connection point coupled to the transformer point tap output,

wherein the impedance boosting section comprises a transformer with a winding tap, and further wherein the transformer winding comprises  $N_1$  turns about the winding tap and  $N_2$  turns below the winding tap, where  $N_1 < N_2$ .

26. (previously presented) A bi-directional access point according to claim 25, wherein  $N_1/N_2$  is selected from a range of 2 through 6 commensurate with a preselected tap value ranging between -10 dB and -30dB.

27. (previously presented) A bi-directional access point according to claim 26, wherein  $N_1/N_2$  is 6 and the preselected tap value is -30 dB.

28. (previously presented) A bi-directional access point according to claim 26, wherein  $N_1/N_2$  is 3 and the preselected tap value is -20dB.

29. (previously presented) A bi-directional access point comprising:

an interface section comprising a bridging connection for a bi-directional communication path, and an interface output connection;

an impedance boosting section coupled to the interface output connection, the impedance boosting circuit including a transformer tap output; and

an access connection point coupled to the transformer point tap output,

wherein the interface section is a resistive interface section.

30. (previously presented) A bi-directional access point according to claim 29, wherein the interface section is a resistive interface section comprising at least first and second resistors in series.

31. (previously presented) A method for monitoring a bi-directional communication path, the method comprising:

establishing a bridging connection from a bi-directional communication path through an interface section to an interface output connection;

providing an impedance boosting section coupled to the interface output connection, the impedance boosting circuit including a transformer tap output; and

providing an access connection point to the access point tap output.

wherein providing an impedance boosting section comprises providing a transformer winding with a winding tap, and further wherein providing a transformer winding comprises providing a transformer winding with  $N_1$  turns above the winding tap and  $N_2$  turns below the winding tap, where  $N_1 < N_2$ .

32. (previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein providing a transformer winding comprises providing a transformer winding in which  $N_1/N_2$  is selected from a range of 2 through 6 commensurate with a preselected tap value ranging between -10 dB and -30 dB.

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein  $N1/N2$  is 3 and the preselected tap value is -20 dB.

34. (previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein  $N1/N2$  is 6 and the preselected tap value is -30 dB.

35. (previously presented) A method for monitoring a bi-directional communication path, the method comprising:

- establishing a bridging connection from a bi-directional communication path through an interface section to an interface output connection;

- providing an impedance boosting section coupled to the interface output connection, the impedance boosting circuit including a transformer tap output; and

- providing an access connection point to the access point tap output,

- wherein establishing a bridging connection comprises establishing the bridging connection through a resistive interface section.

36. (previously presented) A bi-directional access point comprising:

- interface means for establishing a bridging connection from a bi-directional communication path to an interface output connection;

- impedance boosting means coupled to the interface output connection for adding an impedance boost in series with the interface means;

- a transformer tap output coupled to the impedance boosting means;

- a tuning means for establishing at least one of a predetermined return loss and tap value for the access connection point; and

- an access connection point coupled to the transformer tap output,

- wherein the impedance boosting means includes a transformer winding with a winding tap.

37. (previously presented) A bi-directional access point comprising:

interface means for establishing a bridging connection from a bi-directional communication path to an interface output connection;

impedance boosting means coupled to the interface output connection for adding an impedance boost in series with the interface means;

a transformer tap output coupled to the impedance boosting means; and

an access connection point coupled to the transformer tap output,

wherein the impedance boost is commensurate with a preselected tap value ranging between -10 dB and -30dB.

38. (previously presented) A bi-directional access point according to claim 37, wherein the impedance boost is commensurate with a tap value of -30 dB.

39. (previously presented) A bi-directional access point according to claim 22, wherein the impedance boost is commensurate with a tap value of -20dB.